

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: ATLANTIC INSTITUTE PRESS SEMINAR ON DEFENSE  
ISSUES

1. ATLANTIC INSTITUTE IN PARIS SPONSORED A PRESS  
SEMINAR JULY 5 ON THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF NEW  
WEAPONS TECHNOLOGIES FOR EAST-WEST AND ALLIANCE  
RELATIONS. THE SEMINAR, ONE IN A SERIES RUN BY THE  
INSTITUTE, ATTRACTED 25 EUROPEAN, JAPANESE AND AMERICAN  
JOURNALISTS, SOME OF THEM AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADING  
DEFENSE REPORTERS AND ANALYSTS.

2. THE PANEL OF FOUR EXPERTS WHICH ALSO DISCUSSED RELATED  
CURRENT DEFENSE ISSUES WITH THE JOURNALISTS SUCH AS  
SALT, MBFR, NATO READINESS AND THE EAST/WEST MILITARY  
BALANCE WAS MADE UP OF GENERAL ULRICH DE MAIZIERE,  
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FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE WEST GERMAN BUNDESWEHR,  
FRANCOIS DE ROSE, FORMER FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO NATO,  
KENNETH HUNT, DIRECTOR OF THE BRITISH ATLANTIC COMMITTEE,  
AND USNATO POLITICAL OFFICER JACK MENDELSON. OBSERVING  
THE SESSION WAS FRENCH GENERAL DE BORDAS, PRESIDENT OF  
THE INFLUENTIAL PARIS FOUNDATION POUR LES ETUDES DE  
DEFENSE NATIONALE.

3. MR. MENDELSON'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SEMINAR WAS FUNDED BY ICA/USNATO.

4. THE SEMINAR SPEAKERS AS WELL AS THE AUDIENCE REFLECTED, ON THE WHOLE, A VERY HEALTHY APPROACH TO ALLIANCE AND EAST-WEST PROBLEMS. THERE WAS TOTAL AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO PURSUE THE NATO LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AND FORCE IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS. EXCEPT FOR THE FRG PARTICIPANTS (DE MAZIERE AND VON RAVEN ESPECIALLY) THERE WAS A GENERAL QUESTIONING OF THE NEED FOR A "EUROPEAN" RESPONSE--I.E., A CRUISE MISSILE--TO THE SOVIET THEATRE THREAT AND A GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE DANGER OF DECOUPLING EUROPE FROM THE U.S. DETERRENT BY FOCUSING TOO CLOSELY ON THE EURO-STRATEGIC BALANCE.

5. TWO ADDITIONAL THEMES WHICH EMERGED FROM THE SEMINAR WERE:

--A. (AGAIN EXCEPT FOR THE GERMANS) LITTLE HOPE WAS HELD OUT FOR THE LIKELIHOOD OF DEVELOPING A "EUROPEAN" POSITION ON GREY AREA SYSTEMS. MOREOVER, THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF SKEPTICISM EXPRESSED AS TO THE WISDOM OF LIMITING THESE SYSTEMS IN ANY CASE (THE PRICE BEING TOO HIGH); AND

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--B. THERE WAS A PASSING BOW MADE TO DE GAULLE IN THAT SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF EUROPEAN CONCERN REMAINED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE U.S. HAD THE "WILL" AND COULD BE "COUNTED ON" TO DEFEND EUROPE AT THE RISK OF INITIATING A STRATEGIC EXCHANGE WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

6. MENDELSON, IN HIS REMARKS, STRESSED THE NEED FOR A STRONG, SOUND CONVENTIONAL NATO DEFENSE, URGED THAT THE THEATRE BALANCE BE REVIEWED IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF OVERALL U.S. (& NATO) NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, AND ATTEMPTED TO ALLAY ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE STRENGTH OR STEADFASTNESS OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN SECURITY.

7. AMONG THE NOTABLE JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED THE SEMINAR AND CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO DRAW FROM THE BACKGROUND DISCUSSIONS THERE IN DEFENSE-ORIENTED ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY IN THE WEEKS AHEAD ARE JACQUES ISNARD OF LE MONDE, JAMES MEACHAM OF THE ECONOMIST, LOTHAR RUEHL OF DIE ZEIT AND GERMAN 2ND TELEVISION, WOLFRAM VON RAVEN OF DIE WELT, FLORA LEWIS OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, CLAIRE HOLLINGWORTH OF THE TELEGRAPH, MICHAEL GORDEY OF

L'EXPRESS AND NEWSDAY, JOE FITCHETT OF THE PARIS HERALD  
TRIBUNE, AND EDWARD BEHR OF NEWSWEEK. CLAUSSEN

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